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P4 Workshop on Education MIS

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61st Human Rights Day Observed



Richard Bennett, Representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal (left) and Robert Piper, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, watching the video message from the High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay on 11 Dec 2009, UN House, Pulchowk. Photo: OHCHR

Kathmandu, 11 December: With the slogan “**embrace diversity, end discrimination**”, OHCHR together with UNDP, organized an event on 11 December 2009 to mark the 61st Human Rights Day. At the event held in the Rose Garden, UN House, Pukchowk, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Mr. Robert Piper and Representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal Mr. Richard Bennett delivered speeches highlighting the fundamental importance of non-

discrimination. A video message from the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay was broadcasted during the programme.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/HumanRightsDay2009.aspx>

Action plan for release of nearly 3,000 Maoist child soldiers signed



UCPN Maoist leader Puspa Kamal Dahal signing the action plan to accelerate the release of nearly 3,000 child soldiers while other signatories and UN officials are witnessing. Photo: UNMIN

Kathmandu, 16 December 2009: The Nepalese Government and Unified Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (UCPN-M) today signed an action plan to accelerate the release of nearly 3,000 child soldiers who served in the Maoist army during the country's decade-long civil war and remain in temporary camps three years after a peace deal ended the conflict.

"Today, the minors who have spent the last three years in Maoist army cantonments with their lives on hold will finally be able to take the next step towards a more positive future," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict Radhika Coomaraswamy said at the ceremony in Kathmandu.

The move will constitute the first step in deleting the UCPN-M from the list of parties which recruit and use children in conflict. The UN and the Government will assist in the orderly rehabilitation of the minors to ensure that they have the choice to participate in programmes that return them to a civilian environment and are not recruited by violent or criminal gangs.

They will have access to a range of rehabilitation options developed by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN

Population Fund (UNFPA) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), financed by the UN Peace Fund for Nepal.

"The Government of Nepal, the United Nations and our partners are prepared to ensure that these disqualified benefit from rehabilitation packages, including education and skills training to create a brighter future," UNICEF Representative Gillian Mellsop said.

Calling it "a historic step" in Nepal's peace process, Mr. Ban's Representative in the country Karin Landgren added: "We hope that it will encourage other steps to unblock the current political stalemate."

Last month, Ms. Landgren reported little progress in overcoming the political impasse that emerged earlier this year when the President revoked the Army Chief's dismissal by the then-Government and the ruling UCPN-M stepped down.

The 2006 peace agreement ending the civil war led to the establishment of the cantonments to provide temporary shelter for Maoist ex-combatants in several localities across Nepal and they were slated to be discharged after completion of the verification process, as repeatedly called for by the Security Council.



Nala witnesses Sanitation Bazaar



Participants observing different sustainable sanitation model during sanitation exhibition at Nala of Kabhrepalanchwok District. Photo: UN-HABITAT

Nala 31 December: As part of the Household Centered Environmental Sanitation Planning (HCES) in Nala, a sanitation bazaar was held at the heart of this old Newari settlement on 28th November 2009 amidst huge local participation. Nala is a peri urban settlement located in Kavre district close to Banepa Municipality. The main objective of the bazaar, according to Mr. Mingma Gyalzen Sherpa, is to disseminate knowledge on different sanitation systems so that locals or households can take informed decisions while selecting sanitation systems for their household and community.

Mr. Sherpa is a PhD researcher at AIT/EAWAG who is technically backstopping the HCES project. Currently, the inhabitants of Nala are preparing a HCES plan for their settlement under the technical and financial support of UN-HABITAT and the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Sciences (EAWAG)/SANDEC. The Center for Integrated Urban Development (CIUD) is the local implementing partner.

“As part of the planning process the people in Nala are at the stage of selecting potential sanitation options appropriate for their households and the community”, informed Mr. Sherpa. The HCES plan will be covering four wards of Nala Village Development Committee with a total of 388 households.

HCES is a novel planning approach which places households, communities and neighborhood at the centre of the planning process, adopting participatory processes from planning to implementation. It encompasses an integrated approach where safe water supply, sanitation and hygiene are addressed simultaneously. The centre to the HCES planning

approach is the 10 step planning process. The key steps include assessment of user priorities, identification of technological and feasible service combination options and formulation of a consolidated urban sanitation service plan in collaboration with the local stakeholders.

The day long bazaar was witnessed by over 1000 people, says Mr. Shyam Sundar Shrestha, Chairperson of the Nala Integrated Development Committee. Several sanitation options such as Urine Diversion Systems, Double Pit Latrines, Septic Tanks, Decentralized systems such as Biogas, Constructed Wetlands, urine reuse option through Struvite (Phosphorous abstraction) and water disinfection options such as SODIS, Piyush, Biosand filters were demonstrated in the bazaar. In addition to the these options traditional sanitation practices such as the practice of making organic compost “sagaa”, source separation practices using “copra” and innovative approaches like recycled handmade plastic products, tissue culture techniques were put up by the local women and youth groups. According to Mr. Prabhat Kiran Ranjit, the coordinator of the event from CIUD says, the overwhelming participation in Nala was triggered by the community clean up campaign organized early in the morning and most importantly by people’s quest for knowledge. “We will adopt this approach in our other HCES projects as well since it is an interactive way of informing the public”, added Mr. Christoph Luthi from EAWAG who is also overseeing other HCES cases globally. The HCES plan in Nala is expected to be finalized by end of January 2010 following which implementation will begin.

School Record Keeping workshop



Kathmandu, 30 December: The UNESCO Office in Kathmandu organized a two-day workshop on "Improvement of School Record Keeping System" on 29-30 November 2009 at Hotel Marshyangdi, Kathmandu.

Almost 47 persons from both public and private schools, including head teachers, principals, School Management Committees (SMCs) chairpersons, government officials and other stakeholders actively participated in the workshop. The workshop discussed various ways and means to improve the school record keeping system and also discussed difficulties in keeping track record of school children due to various reasons. The workshop was facilitated by Shankar Bahadur Tahapa and Babu Ram Paudel.

A group presentation on improving school record keeping formats. Photo: UNESCO

Workshop on Education Management Information System



Training participants in a group work.
Photo: UNESCO

Kathmandu, 19 December: The UNESCO Office in Kathmandu recently organized a three-day training workshop on 'Capacity Development on Education Management Information System (EMIS) Statistics and District Level Flash Report Preparation' from 17-19 December 2009 at Hotel Marshyangdi, Kathmandu.

The workshop focused on flash reporting system to collect, process, analyze, use and disseminate the school related information with a view to enabling the district level education officials for evidence-based policy planning and result-oriented programme implementation and monitoring. To achieve this goal, it was emphasized to build capacity, especially at school, community and resource center levels on understanding of education statistics and its use in school, village, municipality and district level educational planning, monitoring and management. Almost 43 persons from 37 districts and 5 regional education offices participated in the workshop. The workshops were facilitated by Shankar Bahadur Thapa, Shushil Babu Khanal and Krishna Prasad Dhungana.

NEW Publication

विकासमा सूचनाको हकको प्रभावः

भारतका हार्नेका अनुभवहरूको चित्रण

(आन्तरिक वेबसाइट तर्फको प्रदान गरिएको काल २००८ मई १२ मा प्रकाशित गरिएको प्रकाशन)



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Title: Impact of right to information on development: a perspective on India's recent experiences

This is an invited Lecture on Potential of Information and Communication Strategy for Development, organized by the Communication and Information Division of UNESCO. It has been presented in UNESCO headquarters by M. M. Ansari, Information Commissioner of Central Information Commission New Delhi on 15 May 2008.

It is a working paper about a Perspective on India's Recent Experiences on Right to Information and its impact on governance and development. This paper presents due entirely professional commitment to promote information and communication strategy as instrument to effect changes particularly in the developing world.

It has been translated into Nepali language by UNESCO Office in Kathmandu.

Municipal Resource Mapping Workshop held in Nepal



Joint Secretary of Ministry of Local Development Mr. Dinesh Thapaliya addressing the workshop.
Photo: UN-HABITAT

Kathmandu, 31 December: Municipal Association of Nepal (MuAN), Practical Action Network (PAN) and Environment and Public Health Organization (ENPHO) with support of UN HABITAT Water for Asian Cities Programme Nepal and European Union organized a workshop on municipal resource mapping for sustainable implementation of WATSAN plan on 4 December, 2009 in Kathmandu.

The joint venture of these organizations have been conducting the "Strengthening Water, Air, Sanitation and Hygiene Treasuring Health (SWASHTHA)" project in selected seven municipalities including Bharaput, Ratnanagar, Butawol, Ramgram, Siddharthanagar, Gulariya and Tikapur; and 3 small towns namely Sunawol, Kawasoti and Bardaghat to access improved drinking water and sanitation (WATSAN) facilities to the poor clusters in these areas.

The project has recently formulated a 20-year WATSAN Plan. It has recommended various WATSAN activities to conduct in selected poor communities of these municipalities and small towns, which requires sufficient fund support. The resource mapping workshop had been held to identify the possible resources, which can be supportive to implement WATSAN plan in the project areas.

The workshop carried out stakeholders' consultation on existing WATSAN situation in municipalities, various constraints to bring additional support from other potential stakeholders and donors. The workshop also focused on role of different level sector players in the implementation of WATSAN plan, and exploration of possible financial and other resources.

At the programme, Joint Secretary at Ministry of Local Development (MoLD) Dinesh Thapaliya told that



Chairperson of Municipal Association of Nepal Mr. Dormani Poudel addressing the workshop. Photo: UN-HABITAT

population living under poverty line has increased in the country in last few decades though it seems reduced in proportion. Speaking about the small scale grants, he opined that MoLD should provide grant to those local governments, which assure the ministry to give prime consideration to water, sanitation and health sector.

Dormani Poudel, president of MuAN told that local government should place solid waste management at top priority position in their action plan at the time of approaching to the donors. He suggested the participating municipal representatives and WATSAN stakeholders to get united to contribute WATSAN sector.

The participants at the workshop, highlighting the existing urban WATSAN problems and current strategies of local governments, suggested to assemble support from various resources for the effective implementation of WATSAN action plans at local level. They also suggested to make local government accountable and capable to implement WATSAN activities independently.

UNESCO holds consultation workshop on sex, relationships and HIV education in Nepal



Opening ceremony of the workshop.
Photo: UNESCO

On 15 October 2009, the [UNESCO Office in Kathmandu](#) in partnership with Nepal's Ministry of Education, the UNAIDS Secretariat, UNFPA and UNICEF held a National Consultation Workshop to review and prioritise joint efforts in promoting sex, relationships and HIV education in schools.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

1. Review the [draft International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education](#).

2. Discuss recommendations for mainstreaming sexuality education.

Key challenges identified by participants in implementing sexuality education in Nepal include that:

⇒ The Nepali education system currently focuses its HIV and AIDS education efforts on lower and higher secondary school levels, with very little attention paid to the primary school level.

⇒ Matters of sexuality, love and relationships, injecting drug use, men who have sex with men and sex work are considered to be taboo in the country and have not addressed in the existing curricula.

The workshop participants agreed that the draft International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education will be useful in supporting the mainstreaming of sexuality education in Nepal, and identified the following entry points:

⇒ The Nepal Federal Constitution is currently being developed and offers an opportunity to lobby for provisions related to sexuality education.

⇒ The periodic amendment of the curriculum provides a mechanism through which related topics could be incorporated.

⇒ Life skills-based education has already been rolled out in Nepal and teachers have been trained in 32 districts of the country.

⇒ Existing learning materials on HIV and AIDS education in Nepali can be useful resources to take this forward.

Workshop participants also felt that – as HIV prevention is a priority for donors – it should be easy to generate additional financial resources that may be required for the implementation of sexuality education.

Mr Tap Raj Pant, UNESCO's National Program Officer for Education, said that recommendations from the workshop will be shared with policy-makers and that a high-level task team will be established under the Ministry of Education to facilitate the inclusion of sexuality education in the curricula.

NEW Publication

‘सूचना स्वतन्त्रता र दिगो विकास;
सम्बन्ध पुष्ट्याउँदै’

संयोजक: पद्म शर्मा, उपाध्यक्ष: डा. बालकृष्ण शर्मा, सह-संयोजक: डा. बालकृष्ण शर्मा, सह-संयोजक: डा. बालकृष्ण शर्मा, सह-संयोजक: डा. बालकृष्ण शर्मा



Title: Freedom of information and sustainable development, sealing the link: final report of the UNESCO Experts Meeting held in Paris on March 17-18, 2008

This is a final report of the UNESCO Experts Meeting held in Paris on March 17-18, 2008. It was Prepared in 2008 for United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)/Communication and Information Sector/Freedom of Expression, Democracy and Peace Division.

This report gives an outline of a two-day experts meeting on the link between the realizations of freedom of information and achieving sustainable development. The meeting, organized by UNESCO at its headquarters in Paris, brought together 20 international experts as well as other participants and observers from the civil society, UNESCO Member States and the Secretariat. By sharing specific experiences from around the globe the participants aimed to draft strategies which would make implementation and advocacy more effective in this area.

Community mediation to resolve disputes



Community mediation talking place in Dang district. Photo: UNDP

The formal justice system in Nepal suffers from several drawbacks. It is cumbersome, time consuming and expensive, leaving behind a major portion of the marginalized and poor people, deprived from getting access to justice.

In order to enhance people's access to justice, UNDP Enhancing Access to Justice Project has established Community Mediation Centers in the four districts of Nepal – Kailali, Surkhet, Dang and Udaypur. The community mediation initiatives are implemented in 4 villages and 1 municipality of each district. In community mediation, the during the period between September-November 2009. Out of which, 73 cases

have been resolved. The cases are mainly on partition, family disputes, defamation, transaction, land disputes, house rent and domestic violence. disputants get the right to engage in the settlement of their disputes through negotiation with facilitation of trained mediators.

Community mediation guarantees an easy access to justice for all, especially the marginalized communities. The process is cost effective, informal and the disputing parties can ensure their participation without any hesitation. The mediation centers formed in these four districts received 103 cases Community mediation taking place in Dang district.

UN Events Calendar for January



27 January: International Day Of Commemoration In Memory Of The Victims Of Holocaust

27 January was chosen to be International Holocaust Remembrance Day as it marks the day on which the

largest Nazi death camp in Auschwitz-Birkenau (Poland) was liberated by the Soviet army in 1945.

Website: <http://www.un.org/holocaustremembrance>